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JOHN S. KNIGHT'S NOTEBOOK

Setting Record Straight On Puerto Rican Miscue

Nixon Keeps Debate Alive

Richard Nixon has charged that John Kennedy broke security restrictions during the 1960 campaign with his call for intervention in Cuba.

Press Secretary Pierre Salinger and former CIA Director



NIXON



SALINGER



DULLES

Allen Dulles deny that Mr. Kennedy (then a senator) was briefed on invasion plans and say Nixon must be the victim of a "misunderstanding."

NIXON replies that President Eisenhower authorized him to state "he had given instructions that in regard to U.S. intelligence activities abroad, Sen. Kennedy was to be as fully briefed on our foreign problems as I was."

Dulles says Mr. Kennedy wasn't apprised of invasion plans until Nov. 18, 1960, following his election.

Nixon claims the briefing was held before Oct. 20, 1960, when Mr. Kennedy urged the strengthening of the "non-Batista, democratic anti-Castro forces in exile and in Cuba itself, who offer eventual hope of overthrowing Castro."

IN HIS new book, "Six Crises," the 1960 Republican candidate said he was forced to protect "the covert Cuban operation at all costs" and had to attack Mr. Kennedy's proposal for aid as wrong and irresponsible because it would violate our treaty commitments.

Nixon now reveals the irony of his position in the campaign, since "the training of exiles as well as the new over quarantine policy were programs due, in substantial part at least, to my efforts."

Nixon goes on to say that he was in "the position of appearing to be 'softer' on Castro than Kennedy—which was exactly the opposite of the truth, if only the whole record could be disclosed."

Incidentally, too, says Nixon, it was the "one and only time in the campaign" that columnists and editorial writers gave him the better of the argument.

A Poor Plan For Invasion

So we have an added fillip to 1960 campaign history.

But most of what it tells us is that the Eisenhower administration had a poorly conceived plan for the Cuban invasion and the Kennedy administration lacked the ability to discern its weaknesses.

American foreign policy suffered a sharp defeat at the Bay of Pigs.

President Kennedy took the blame, Nixon turned to writing articles and running for governor of California, and Allen Dulles, the Joint Chiefs and the CIA would like to forget the whole thing.

When we think of what might have been, the Cuban invasion fiasco must be accounted the most costly setback this country has ever received in the hemisphere.

When Castro won, Latin America began to wonder

JOHN S. KNIGHT